

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 XMB-02 TRSE-00 /060 W

----- 021574

R 030851Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1719

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJ: TWA ABANDONS BARCELONA SERVICE

REF: PARIS 9812; MADRID 2634; MADRID 2593

1. TWA MADRID INFORMED EMBASSY MORNING MAY 2 THAT IT HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO FLY INTO BARCELONA. TWA REP TOLD EMBOFF DECISION ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO SPANISH AIR MINISTRY. THAT MINISTRY TOLD THAT ECONOMIC FACTORS NECESSITATED SUSPENSION.

2. TWA HAD INFORMED AIR MINISTRY APRIL 16 THAT BARCELONA SERVICE TO BE SUSPENDED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY IF LABOR COURT THERE, AS THAT AIRLINE RELIABLY INFORMED IT WOULD, WERE TO DECIDE IT OBLIGED HIRE ABOUT 20 FORMER PAN AMERICAN BARCELONA EMPLOYEES, IN SPITE OF LATTER AIRLINE'S OFFER OF SETTLEMENT EXCEEDING LEGAL MINIMUM.

3. COMMENT: A; ADDUCING ECONOMIC REASONS IS MUCH BETTER WAY TO EXPLAIN SUSPENSION OF BARCELONA SERVICE THAN
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REFERENCES TO AN AS YET UNANNOUNCED DECISION TWA THOUGHT

LABOR COURT WOULD MAKE. NEW ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF BUT HAS NOT YET READ, WOULD APPEAR TO PUT BETTER FACE ON MATTER. BUT IMPRESSION OF PRECIPITOUS ACTION CREATED BY APRIL 16 LETTER STILL REMAINS.

4. COMMENT B; PAN AMERICAN'S OFFER FOR SETTLEMENT TO ITS FORMER BARCELONA EMPLOYEES BEING CONSIDERED BY LABOR COURT THERE. PAN AMERICAN IS WILLING GIVE THESE EMPLOYEES ONE MONTH'S PAY PER YEAR OF SERVICE, WITH ANY FRACTIONS OF A YEAR COUNTED AS A WHOLE, PLUS AN EXTRA MONTH, WITH NO LIMITATION. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LAW PROVIDES FOR SETTLEMENT TO BE GIVEN TO DISMISSED EMPLOYEES VARYING FROM 15 DAYS TO ONE YEAR OF SALARY DEPENDING ON LENGTH OF SERVICE AND OTHER FACTORS. BUT LABOR MINISTRY HAS FREQUENTLY NOT AUTHORIZED CLOSURE OF SOME ENTERPRISES (A TASK OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED IT) UNLESS SETTLEMENTS OF ONE MONTH'S PAY PER YEAR OF SERVICE GIVEN. SOME MORE RECENT DECISIONS HAVE REQUIRED TWO MONTH'S PAY, WITH SETTLEMENT OFTEN EXCEEDING A YEAR'S PAY FOR VETERAN EMPLOYEES. EMBASSY HOPES ISSUE OF TWA'S OBLIGATION (OR THE LACK OF IT) TO HIRE FORMER PAN AMERICAN BARCELONA EMPLOYEES WILL BECOME MOOT WITH ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE TO THAT CITY. BUT UNTIL A PAN AMERICAN SETTLEMENT OFFER DEFINITELY AGREED ON BY LABOR COURT AND THAT AIRLINE, IT APPEARS THAT PROBLEM COULD ARISE AGAIN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, PERSONNEL, AIR SCHEDULES, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID03015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0578
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacxut.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 9812, 75 MADRID 2634, 75 MADRID 2593
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWA ABANDONS BARCELONA SERVICE
TAGS: EAIR, ETRN, SP, US, TWA, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006